Among the 406 Provertikars in the Land Revenue Department there was only one Catholic. It was true that the Government had appointed a Public Service Committee. But it would have been better if the Government had adopted the policy followed by the Madras Government in the matter instead of appointing the Committee. It would have saved public time and money. It was many months since the Committee was appointed, but it had not yet begun work. The Committee should be asked to expedite its report and, in the meantime, the Government should try to redress the grievances of the community in the matter.

DEWAN'S REPLY: The object of the rules, Mr. Chacko, which Government have laid down about the building of churches, was to prevent conflicts between religious interests, and, at the same time, to offer no impediment to freedom of worship. The number of churches and religious buildings erected during the last few years seems to show that this object has been gained. As regards your remarks about the reporting of officers, within the last few weeks, I must have seen about half a dozen reports, and all of them struck me as being very fair indeed.

The rule about cemeteries is under consideration.

Your suggestions about representation in this House will no doubt be considered with the reform of this Assembly.

Nomination is a difficult matter. With the representation of a large number of communities has to be considered the question of not making the body too unwieldy. As a consequence, very often, a community will not be represented on one occasion, but will have to wait for its turn next time. If all small communities are to be represented, it will make the body much too unwieldy to work. The minority communities must all take their turn by rotation.

As I have already said more than once, I hope the report of the Recruitment Committee will not take long to come. Of course, it will only deal with initial appointments. Communal considerations must not be allowed to weigh in appointments when officers are once in service.

175. Public service.

MR. K. P. AUGUSTINE (*Kunnatnad taluk, Group II*) said that in the matter of representation in the public service, the Catholic community suffered most. The Catholics were second to no other community in the State in educational advancement, economic interests and organised communal strength. The community numbered about a million and every sixth citizen in the State was a Roman Catholic. The Government should show better sympathy towards the Catholics and accord them their legitimate share of appointments in the public service. Though it had been assured that the policy of the Government in this matter was to give equal opportunities to all clases of the people, this policy had not been kept in view so far, as the Catholics were concerned, though they were not behind any other community in point of educational advancement or qualification.

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The community was inadequately represented in all the departments of the State, both executive and administrative. In the higher grade appointments the Catholics shared barely 5 per cent. while in the lower grades it was still worse. Among the 406 Provertikars there was only one Catholic. The Government and the heads of departments should sympathetically consider the claims of the community in the matter of entertainment of the members of the community in the public service.

The Catholic community was inadequately represented in the representative institutions of the State, such as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils, the Panchayat Courts, and the various committees constituted from time to time. Dewans Mr. Raghaviah and Mr. M. E. Watts rightly recognised the claims of the community for a nominated seat in the Legislative Council. But the next Dewan sadly ignored the community at the time of the last nomination to the Council.

Lastly, the member represented about the necessity for nominating a Catholic Christian to the Alwaye Municipal Council, in one of the vacancies to be filled up. Of the 13 Councillors, there were only two Christian elected members. The Catholics constituted 85 per cent. of the Christians of Alwaye and it was only reasonable to demand that a Catholic should be nominated to the Municipal Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY. It is the intention of Government, Mr. Augustine, to do justice to all communities. You have, more or less, repeated what Mr. Chacko said, excepting your last remark; and I can only repeat what I said to him, *viz.*, that the representation of Catholics will be considered with the report of the Recruitment Committee.

176. Formulating a scheme for the encouragement of the learning of ancient arts, such as religious discourses, music, dramas, architecture, painting and physical culture.

MR. N. SEKHARA VARRIAR (*Municipal Council, Attingal*) said that many of ancient arts which had been carefully fostered and maintained in a flourishing condition in ancient days, had become extinct for want of proper encouragement. There were sixty-four kinds of such arts. Of these, the most important were music and literature. Under literature were included the study of *vedas* and the recitation of *puranas*, besides religious discourses such as *chakyarkoottu* and *patakam*. *Kalamezhuttu* and *pattu*, *ayyarkali*, etc. came under music. Architecture and painting also occupied an important position among the ancient arts. Physical culture was also not lost sight of. *Nrittam*, *koodiyattam*, *valeru* and *dandippu* were some of the important items which came under this head. These arts were mostly designed to be exhibited in temples. The performances of these arts were considered as an offering to *Sakti i. e.* the Goddess. The Goddess was conceived to be the embodiment of these arts. Hence they were exhibited in the Hindu temples in ancient days. These arts were in its infancy before the advent of Budhism and they developed before the advent of Christianity and

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